

## ABSTRACT

The invention relates to header compression in packet-based communication systems. A mechanism that allows a compressor to reject a request for an  
5 undesirable mode change is proposed. The compressor indicates to the decompressor that the mode change request is being ignored, whereafter the decompressor may abort the initiated mode transition, with the understanding that the compressor has valid reasons to refuse it. The compressor preferably determines whether the rejection succeeded by link  
10 monitoring, and in case of a successful rejection, the compressor remains in its current mode. A preferred embodiment performs explicit rejection signaling through a mode change rejection message with a redefined mode value. The rejection signaling of the invention makes it possible for a compressor to disable the transition to a particular mode and enables  
15 implementations with only a subset of all modes.

(Fig. 3)